AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend paragraph [0002] as indicated below:

In order to search for a specific person like a criminal on ~~the~~ a wanted list, ~~such~~ a system is available that videotapes an unspecified number of the general public and records their images by installing surveillance cameras in airports, stations, shopping centers, busy streets, and the like. In this system, videotaped images are recorded as they are or face images are exclusively recorded by being extracted from the videotaped images. In these methods, there is a problem ~~that~~ since the face images of the people other than the specific person are also recorded, failing to protect their rights of portrait or piracy.

Please amend paragraph [0003] as indicated below:

Therefore, there is a system now available according to which the face image of a person videotaped by a surveillance camera is compared with the face image of the specific person registered: the face image of a videotaped person is recorded if these face images match with each other, whereas when these face images do not match with each other, the face image of the videotaped person is abandoned. In this system, out of the face images videotaped, those which do not ~~to~~ match with the face image of the registered specific person are not kept, thereby securing protection of their privacy.

Please amend paragraph [0008] as indicated below:

~~The~~ A face identification device of the present invention comprises: detection means for detecting face images from human body images taken by a camera; storage means in which a face image of a specific person is previously stored; determination means for determining whether a face image detected by the detection means matches with the face image stored in the storage means by comparing both face images; and abstraction means for applying an abstraction process to a predetermined face image

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out of the face images detected by the detection means in order to make the predetermined face image unrecognizable. The abstraction means applies the abstraction process exclusively to a detected face image when the determination means determines that both face images do not match with each other. On the other hand, the abstraction means does not apply the abstraction process to a detected face image when the determination means determines that both face images match with each other.

Please amend paragraph [0009] as indicated below:

~~The~~ A face identification method of the present invention comprises the steps of: detecting face images from human body images taken by a camera; determining whether a detected face image matches with the face image previously stored by comparing both face images; applying an abstraction process exclusively to a detected face image in order to make the detected face image unrecognizable, when it is determined that both face images do not match with each other; and not applying the abstraction process to the detected face image when it is determined that both face images match with each other.

Please amend paragraph [0011] as indicated below:

According to the present invention, when a detected face image and the registered face image do not match with each other, that is, when the detected face does not belong to the specific person, an abstraction process is applied on the face image in order to protect the right of portrait or privacy of the people other than the specific person. Furthermore, the abstraction process is applied only to the face images of the people, keeping images other than their faces, such as their dress and baggage. On the other hand, when a detected face image and the registered face image match with each other, that is, when the detected face belongs to the specific person, both the face image and images including the dress and baggage of the specific person are kept without

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being applied with the abstraction process. Thus keeping the images for the dress and

baggage of a specific person and of the other people around as they are helps ~~can~~

facilitate the search for the specific person by using these images as an important clue.

Please amend paragraph [0024] as indicated below:

Fig. 1 shows a block diagram of the face identification system to which the

present invention is applied. In the drawing, the face identification system is composed

of surveillance cameras 1 for videotaping the images of people, and the face

identification device 2 of the present invention for identifying face images of the people

videotaped by the surveillance cameras 1. A plurality ~~plural number~~ of ~~the~~

surveillance cameras 1 are installed in airports, stations, shopping centers, busy streets,

and other places where a number of people gather, and each of the cameras 1 is

connected with the face identification device 2 installed in a monitor center or the like.

Please amend paragraph [0025] as indicated below:

In the face identification device 2, ~~reference numeral 3 is a~~ computer 3 is for

face identification; reference numeral 4 is an identification results output device for

outputting the results of face identification by the computer 3; and ~~reference numeral 5~~

~~is a~~ storage device 5 ~~which previously~~ stores the face image data of a specific person

(e.g., a suspect on the wanted list). ~~Reference numerals 6 and 7 are~~ Image input devices

6 and 7 are for registering a face image with ~~to~~ the storage device 5[[;]] . ~~reference~~

~~numeral 6 is a scanner and reference numeral 7 is a digital camera~~ Input device 6 is a

scanner, and input device 7 is a digital camera. The computer 3 includes detection

means for detecting face images from images of people videotaped by the surveillance

cameras 1; determination means for determining the presence or absence of a match

between a detected face image and the face image stored in the storage device 5 by

comparing them; and abstraction means for applying an abstraction process to a

predetermined face image out of the detected face images out of the detected face images so as to make the face unrecognizable. The identification results output device 4 is composed of a display monitor for displaying identification results, and other output devices. The storage device 5 can be a hard disk or the like, which composes the storage means of the present invention. Besides a hard disk, an optical disk can be used as the storage means.

Please amend paragraph [0029] as indicated below:

As the results of the determination at Step S15, when a detected face image and the registered face image do not match with each other (Step S15:NO), the detected face image does not belong to the specific person registered. Therefore, the mosaic process is applied to the detected face image portion (Step S16). Fig. 5 shows an example of images to which the mosaic process has been applied[[:]]. The the mosaic process 12 is applied to each face image of the persons 10B to 10F except the specific person so as to abstract their faces unrecognizably. The mosaic process 12 is applied exclusively to the face image portions, keeping dress and baggage portions unprocessed.

Please amend paragraph [0030] as indicated below:

On the other hand, when a detected face image matches with the registered face image (Step S15:Yes), it means that the detected face image belongs to the registered specific person, so a marker 13 is applied to the detected face image portion instead of applying the mosaic process thereto (Step S17). In Fig. 5, the person 10A is the specific person, and the mosaic process 12 is not applied to the face image portion of the specific person 10A, thereby keeping the face 11 the same as when it is videotaped by the surveillance cameras 1. The face 11 is enclosed by the marker 13 to make the specific person distinguishable at a glance. The mosaic process 12 is not

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applied to the dress or baggage of the specific person 10A. In other words, concerning the specific person 10A, the image videotaped by the surveillance cameras 1 appears as it is.

Please amend paragraph [0036] as indicated below:

In the aforementioned embodiment, the face image of a specific person is previously registered, and face images videotaped by surveillance cameras are compared with the registered face image so as to detect the specific person; however, it is also possible to detect a specific person registered afterwards by using images stored in the storage device 5. This system enables the detection of people whom the police ~~has~~ <u>have</u> been requested to find or stray children.